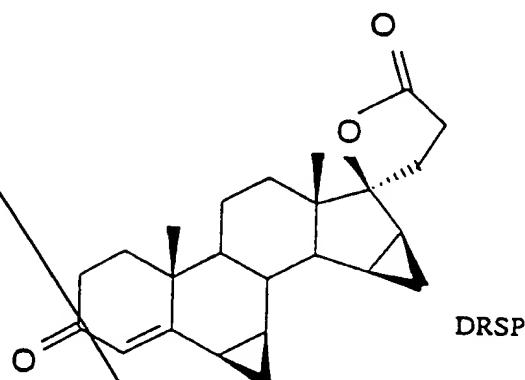


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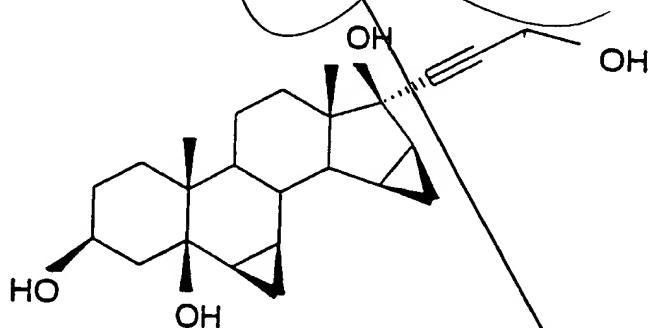
PCT/EP97/04342

Claims

1. Process for the production of drospirenone ($6\beta,7\beta$;
 $15\beta,16\beta$ -dimethylene-3-oxo- 17α -pregn-4-ene-21,17-carbolactone,
DRSP)

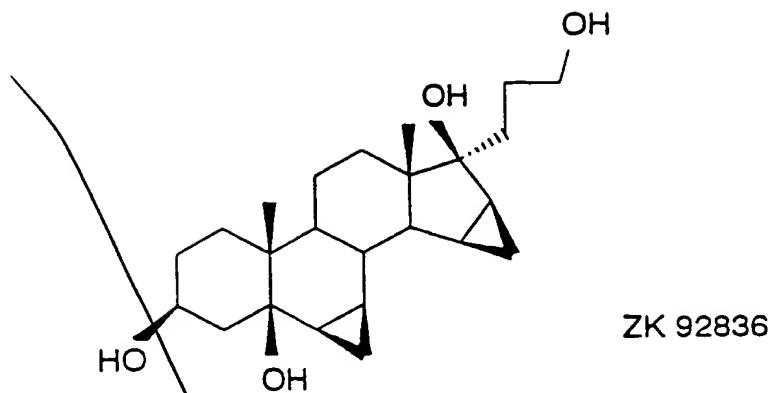


by catalytic hydrogenation of 17 α -(3-hydroxy-1-propynyl)-6 β ,7 β ;
15 β ,16 β -dimethylene-5-androstan-3 β ,5,17 β -triol (ZK 34506)

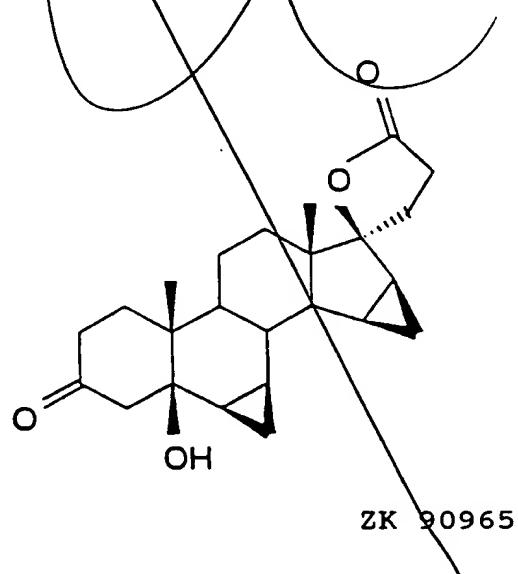


ZK 34506

into 7α -(3-hydroxy-1-propyl)- $6\beta,7\beta$; $15\beta,16\beta$ -dimethylene- 5β -androstane- $3\beta,5,17\beta$ -triol (ZK 92836).

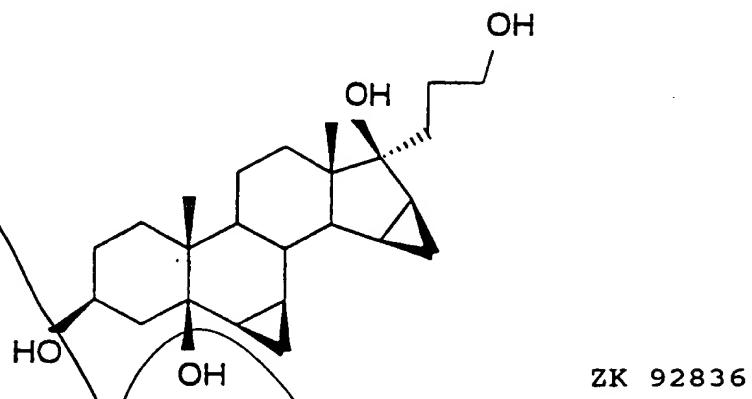


oxidation in the presence of a ruthenium salt into $6\beta,7\beta$;
 $15\beta,16\beta$ -dimethylene- 5α -hydroxy- 3 -oxo- 17α -androstane- $21,17$ -
carbolactone (ZK 90965)

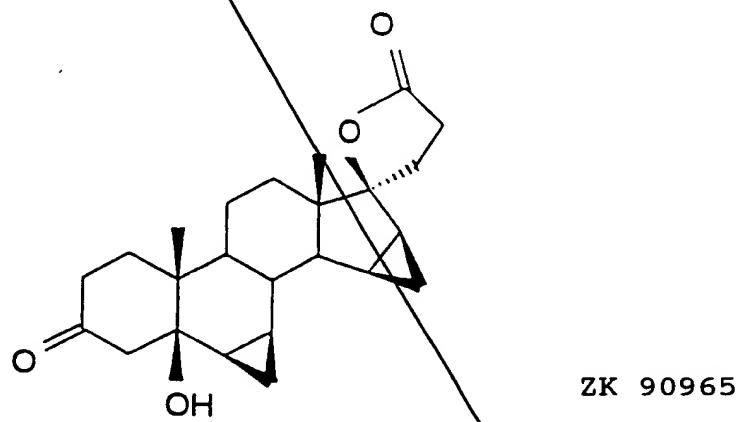


and subsequent dehydration.

2. 7α -(3-Hydroxy-1-propyl)- $6\beta,7\beta$; $15\beta,16\beta$ -dimethylene- 5β -androstan- $3\beta,5,17\beta$ -triol (ZK 92836)



3. $6\beta,7\beta$; $15\beta,16\beta$ -Dimethylene- 5β -hydroxy- 3 -oxo- 17α -androstan- $21,17$ -carbolactone (ZK 90965)



Add A

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C3

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D4